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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS CHAMPION (MCM-4)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96662-1924

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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From: Commanding Officer, USS CHAMPION (MCM 4)
To: Naval Historical Center, Ship's Branch, Washington, DC

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 1992

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command History

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted as USS CHAMPION's Command History for Calendar Year 1992.

TW Malloy
T. W. MALLOY

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USS CHAMPION (MCM-4)

COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1992

I. Command Composition and Organization

The primary mission of the MCM class ships is to provide the fleet with a seaborne mine countermeasures capability. The CHAMPION is homeported in San Diego and is one of the West Coast minesweepers that form Mine Countermeasures Group One, based in Seattle, WA. LCDR Stanley V. Degeus was the ship's Commanding Officer until his relief on 18 SEP 92 by LCDR Todd W. Malloy.

II. Chronology

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
07-27 JAN 92	CHAMPION successfully completed Stray Fields/Degaussing, Electromagnetic Roll Testing and Check Ranging at the Magnetic Silencing Facility, San Diego, CA
FEB-MAR 92	Conducted Combat System Ships Qualification Trials (CSSQT) Phase Three in San Diego
APR 92	Commander, Mine Countermeasures Group ONE held training availability for one week
MAY 92	Final Contractor Trials, conducted by Washington Board of Inspection and Survey; successfully completed
18 MAY - 28 AUG 92	Post Shakedown Availability at Campbell Industries, San Diego, CA
18 SEP 92	Change of Command. LCDR Malloy relieves LCDR Degeus
OCT 92	Began a period of Restricted Availability in San Diego, CA
NOV 92	Third consecutive year, CHAMPION was an Eagle contributor for San Diego County Combined Federal Campaign
DEC 92	Second consecutive year, CHAMPION was awarded the Silver Anchor for Command Retention
DEC 92	CHAMPION sailor was selected as Sailor of the Year for Mine Countermeasures Group ONE. Second consecutive year a CHAMPION sailor was selected by MCM Group ONE
08 DEC 92	CHAMPION becomes first MCM to pass Surface Rescue Swimmer Trainer

III. Narrative

USS CHAMPION (MCM 4) completed a rigorous year of training and upkeep schedules. The crew performed exceptionally well.

During the period 7-27 January 1992, CHAMPION completed Stray Fields/ Degaussing, Electromagnetic Roll testing and Check Ranging at the Magnetic Silencing Facility, San Diego, California. All phases of the tenuous three week operation went smoothly, a reflection of the "CAN-DO" attitude and preparedness of the crew.

February and March 1992 brought a new series of operational challenges which CHAMPION met with zeal and determination. CSSQT Phase Three, conducted in San Diego by Naval Surface Warfare Center, Mine Warfare Engineering Activity, Yorktown, Virginia, was a nine week series of mine warfare specific operations and training designed to indoctrinate the crew and create a solid base of knowledge on which to build. CHAMPION completed the evolution in seven weeks, the first MCM class vessel to do so! Numerous minehunting and mine sweeping exercises were completed ahead of schedule, a tribute to the crew's enthusiasm. Representatives from the Fleet and Mine Warfare Training Center (MCM REFTRA) and from Commander, Mine Warfare Inspection Group participated in the evolution which was praised by the CSSQT Test director and his staff as being the best CSSQT to date, in which no training deficiencies were found.

As a follow on to this training, Commander, Mine Countermeasures Group ONE conducted a Training Availability in early April, 1992. This week long evaluation prepared CHAMPION even further to achieve mission ready status and allowed the crew to excel in numerous MCM evolutions.

May 1992 brought Final Contractors Trials, conducted by the Washington Board of Inspection and Survey. The successful completion of this evolution enabled CHAMPION to reach yet another milestone.

From 18 May - 28 August 1992 CHAMPION underwent Post Shakedown Availability at Campbell Industries, San Diego, California. Ship's force worked diligently with shipyard and contractor personnel to obtain nothing less than outstanding results in all work accomplished. Several crewmembers were also trained by the Supervisor of Shipbuilding as Quality Assurance Personnel and worked alongside SUPSHIP Q.A. representatives, yielding superior quality results. The highest possible level of operational readiness was maintained as all personnel embarked upon a rigorous daily schedule of training lectures, formal school assignments and personal qualifications aimed at increasing the knowledge base of the crew as a whole. Smarter watchstanders and more enthusiastic crewmembers were the result of this ambitious program.

After a Change of Command in September 1992, CHAMPION embarked upon a week long underway training period, combining sea trials with numerous mine hunting and minesweeping evolutions, thus ensuring the operational readiness of the crew. In October, 1992 CHAMPION began a Restricted Availability in San Diego, in which numerous jobs were begun, most notably the crankshaft replacement and alignment of all seven Isotta Fraschini diesel engines (main propulsion and ship's service). Once again, CHAMPION crewmembers were the driving force behind the correct and timely accomplishment of all designated jobs.

During this period CHAMPION was certified as a 2M microminiature repair station. Inspectors from MOTU FIVE noted that crewmembers were extremely knowledgeable and dedicated concerning their responsibilities.

On 8 December 1992, CHAMPION became the first MCM to pass Surface Rescue Team Trainer, an evaluation conducted by Fleet Training Center, San Diego.